## Chesapeake Bay Trust

## **Grant Summary**

In order to demonstrate that measurable results can be achieved with a concentration of efforts, significant levels of implementation and innovation must occur in both the urban and agricultural areas of the watershed. Recognizing the contribution of uncontrolled urban and suburban runoff to the local impairments of streams and rivers of the Corsica watershed (much of the Town of Centreville was built prior to the codification of storm water management), "Putting Local Communities In Charge" is proposed to provide the Town of Centreville with the tools needed to take on this challenge and to build the citizen involvement that is key to success. "Putting Local Communities In Charge" will result in an urban restoration master plan for the Town of Centreville that will illustrate how urban runoff can be significantly reduced through innovative pollution prevention techniques.

Communities around Maryland are recognizing the consequences of uncontrolled urban and suburban runoff and are showing a growing interest in pollution prevention techniques that incorporate the innovative strategies presented in "Putting Local Communities in Charge". This project will provide those pioneering communities with a model demonstrating how to incorporate these innovative techniques in the retro-fitting of existing systems, as well as the development of their future storm water plans. In addition, stormwater management activities are almost exclusively targeted towards public property and new development. To sustain progress in meeting the water quality goals, it is critical to get a handle on nutrient loads from privately-owned developed lands. As part of "Putting Local Communities in Charge," residents will have the opportunity to apply for one of ten \$2,000 implementation grants administered by the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay to install an innovative pollution prevention/reduction practice on their property. "A Community Response" will ultimately help to define what can be done in urban and suburban areas in the Corsica watershed and throughout the Chesapeake Bay watershed to engage private property owners to implement pollution prevention and reduction practices.

By implementing innovative urban best management practices we will be able to demonstrate that streams hit by urban runoff can be protected and restored. In addition to the urban restoration master plan and demonstration projects, this project will provide hands-on training and resources to engage homeowners in implementing pollution prevention/reduction practices and behaviors. The activities will be measured against clear, quantifiable standards of ecosystem health being collected as the foundation of the comprehensive Corsica Watershed Project.

**Location:** Corsica River Watershed Queen Anne's County

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Landowner projects and practices will be used to enhance and protect the watershed's resources.

